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APR 16 1927

# Garden Irises for Garden Lovers 1927

The SIMPSON IRIS GARDENS

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ROSSLYN :: VA.

H. P. Simpson

## THE IRIS

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Sunbeams imprisoned that fall to earth  
and grow;

The lovely ling'ring blush of sunset  
afterglow.

The whiteness of the snows, a gleam of  
garish gold,

A wave of royal purple, a dash of  
yellow bold.

(G. H. Dalzell in the "Flower Grower.")

## BEARDED IRIS

—  
*For Garden Makers Wherever  
the Love for Gardens Exist*

The Simpson Iris Gardens are located at Livingstone Heights, almost directly on the well-known Lee Highway; this is just three-and-a-half miles out from Washington, D. C. Visitors are welcome at any time during the blooming season.

Phone (from Washington): Clarendon 188-W-2.



## IRIS TALK

THIS CATALOG will of course be placed in the hands of some who have had no extensive experience with the modern Iris, and for their benefit it should be explained that all the varieties listed herein belong to that large class known as 'Bearded Iris,' or 'Pogoniris'—the class which is so easily grown and which has furnished the greatest number of beauties in the Iris world; no Japanese nor Siberian nor water-loving varieties are listed. Various members of the 'bearded' class have been known in the past to some of us as 'German Irises,' 'Flags,' 'Flag Irises,' 'Flag Lilies,' 'Fleur-de-Lis,' and during the Great War they came to be listed by a few growers as 'Liberty Iris;' the latter was a manufactured term, and having no good reason for its existence, the sooner it disappears the better.

THE PAST season, in some localities and particularly around Washington, D. C., and in Northern Virginia, ushered in a long drouth at its very beginning, and was hard on all spring-blooming perennials where the garden slopes were sharp and the soil light. Heavy soils on the other hand escaped to a large extent the injury caused by the drouth, and since mine is of this type, the Irises were never more beautiful.

HOW MUCH of a garden should even an Iris enthusiast give over to his favorite, is a legitimate question that is asked every now and then, and though it possesses the power to an unusual degree to lead its followers farther and farther into wonderlands of delight, its season comes to an end, and we need other blooming things to adorn the garden during the summer and fall; so we turn to the annuals and to roses, gladiolus, dahlias, perennial phloxes, and asters, chrysanthemums, and others. Perhaps a goodly proportion for the making of a garden is one-fourth Irises and three-fourths other flowers. The tall bearded Irises (some of them are not so tall, however, though even these are placed in that general class) bloom for a period of only five or six weeks, longer it is true than any other popular spring blooming flower, but I have always felt it to be wise on nature's part not to lengthen this period but slightly, anyway. We must be fair to these other attractive garden inhabitants, and how could we be when Irises and Peonies, the two finest spring flowers, were filling all space with their beauty and glory!

CHOOSING colors for the Iris garden: most of us, I am thinking, run to the purples and lavenders with only an occasional yellow and white; judging from the experience of many, yellow does not at first appeal to us as the other colors do, but sooner or later it is seen that the garden decidedly needs some of this class; we will find too that those of this color together with the bronzes make the most brilliant showing of perhaps all. One authority says that the ratio should be about one 'variegata' or yellow to three of every other color. The whites or near-whites are also needed, and in a larger quantity than we usually find them for they mingle most effectively with the blues, purples and pinks.

DO WE LIKE to read or hear of the varieties that appeal most to the various garden lovers? I think we do. So let's give a little space to listing the names of some.

To begin with, Mr. Sturtevant, secretary of the American Iris Society, says that he prefers of the most vigorous, free-blooming kinds, Mother of Pearl, Caterina, Parc Neuilly, Mad. Gaudichau, Monsignor, Her Majesty, Archeveque, Shekinah, Sherwin Wright, Darius, Quaker Lady, Sindjkha, Rhein Nixe, Steepway, Susan Bliss, Fairy, Mid-West, and others; while of the fine exhibition kinds, he likes best, Fairy, Mother of Pearl, Her Majesty, Shekinah, Princess Beatrice, Kestrel, Mad. Gaudichau, Ember, Cardinal, Arlington, Asia, Jubilee, Ambassadeur, Val-Kyrie, etc.

Then Mr. Wister, president of the A. I. S., likes and recommends among the lavenders, blues and purples, Princess Beatrice, Miranda, Rose-dale, Parc Neuilly, Mad. Gaudichau; of the pinks and lavender-pinks, Queen of May, Dream, Georgia, Edouard Michel; among lavender bicolors, Crusader, Lord of June, Sweet Lavender; in the yellows, Flavescens, Mrs. Neubronner, Shekinah, Minnehaha, Iris King, Loreley; then of the other colors and blends, Afterglow, Quaker Lady, Mad. Chobaut, Jacquesiana, Prosper Laugier, Ambassadeur, Alcazar, Asia, L. A. Williamson, Prospero, Kashmir White, Fairy, Ma Mie, etc., etc.

Mr. Gersdorff, he of gladiolus fame, as well as being an Iris grower, lists these as among the best, regardless of price: Dusk, Bruno, Arlington, Asia, Ambassadeur, L. A. Williamson, Mad. Gaudichau, Prospero, Shekinah, Sophronia, Morning Splendor, etc., etc.

Then Mrs. Wright of Nashville, well known among Iris lovers, says that she prefers Princess Beatrice, Alcazar, Isoline, Flavescens, Lohengrin, Iris King, Celeste, Jean d'Arc, etc., for the lower priced ones; and Lord of June, B. Y. Morrison, Ed. Michel, Arlington, Prospero, Delicatissima, Asia, Ballerine, Dominion, Kashmir White, Melrose, Ambassadeur, Titan, Shekinah, Sunset, Moonlight, Dream, etc., for the higher priced ones.

Mr. Burchfield of Oswego, Kansas, has written that "Asia is one of eight varieties that I feel I should insist on having no matter what happened to the Iris world;" and the rest of the eight were Ambassadeur, Ballerine, Mad. Gaudichau, Princess Beatrice, Prospero, Magnifica and Mmle. Schwartz. "I should insist on M. Schwartz as a companion to illuminate the rich hues of Ambassadeur," he says.



Every Iris grower is urged to join the American Iris Society. The annual dues are \$3.00, and they can be sent to Arthur H. Scott, Treasurer, Front and Market Street, Chester, Pa. Four Iris Bulletins each year, and some back ones, are available to all members; a great deal of interesting up-to-date information will be found in them.



## PLANTING TIMES

**B**EARDED IRISES are among the easiest (the class in this catalog) flowers on earth to plant, in that you can move and plant them any month in the year when the ground can be dug into, and while in full bloom! They probably hold the record in this respect over all other flowers. But of course there are best times and times not best for the doing of this. Spring planting is done by many, though I can not recommend it, for the plant is then making its fastest growth and the shock to it by being moved does it no particular good. I do not and can not ship when they are in bloom, which is with me from about May 1st to June 15th. From June 20th to September 1st is without a doubt the very best time for transplanting, though it can be done up to frost and even later. All authorities agree that summer and early fall are the best seasons. However, if you wish to plant in the spring, and will notify me, your orders can be filled up to May 1st; then a gap comes and no further shipping is done until June 20th.



## REDUCTIONS WHEN ORDERED IN QUANTITIES

Varieties listed at 20c each: Three rhizomes for 50c; six for \$1.00

Varieties at 25c each: ..... Three for 65c; six for \$1.25  
(Aurea is not included in these reductions.)

Varieties at 30c each: ..... Three for 80c; six for \$1.40

Varieties at 35c each: ..... Three for 90c; six for \$1.75

Varieties at 40c each: ..... Three for \$1.10; six for \$2.00

Varieties at 50c each: ..... Three for \$1.25; six for \$2.50

The above reductions apply, of course, only when three or six of the **same variety** are ordered. Reductions, as a rule, on varieties listed at over 50c each, can not be given, unless specifically mentioned on the following pages.

Please note the additional discounts of 5% and 10% mentioned on page 22.

Descriptive notes under varieties: you will find under many of the varieties quotations from various experienced Iris gardeners and judges; I like to give them for they represent, not alone what I think, but what others think, and they should be of value and interest to all of us.

## CLASSIFICATION OF VARIETIES

Varieties are listed and classified according to their main color scheme, and though this is difficult at times, it is believed to be much better than the old and now confusing classification into *neglecta*, *amoena*, *variegata*, etc., groups which nowadays tell you nothing in many cases, of the dominating color of the variety. "S" means "Standards," or upright petals; "F" means "Falls," or the drooping petals.

For your convenience however, if you have become accustomed to the old classification, it is briefly given and explained below:

**Amoena** ("pleasing")—the standards are mostly white with the falls usually of a blue or violet shade.

**Germanica**—of early flowering habits and shades of blue and purple with falls of darker shades.

**Neglecta** ("neglected")—standards range from lavender to purple and falls of darker shades.

**Pallida** ("pallid")—light and dark shades of blue, lavender and purple with numerous approaches to pink and red; generally tall or fairly tall growth.

**Plicata** ("pleated")—Standards and falls usually have a colored frill-like margin on a white ground.

**Squalens** ("daubed")—standards of clouded shades of fawn, copper or bronze, with darker falls of purple or brown-crimson shades.

**Variegata** ("variegated")—standards of various shades of yellow, with brownish falls, or else both standards and falls of yellow shades.



## NAMES OF INTRODUCERS

The American introducers or hybridists named after the varieties are Farr, Morrison, Miss Sturtevant, Kennicott, Williamson, Kohankie, Fryer and Simpson; the English are Bliss, Foster, Yeld, Ware, Parker, Barr, and Perry; the French are Lemon, Cayeux, Jacques, Verdier, Vilmorin, Millet and Denis; the German are Goos & Koeneman (G. & K.).

# The Varieties

## *White or White Effects*

- ALBICANS** ..... 20c  
 The old-fashioned early white. A large bloom of fine shape. Fragrant. Shy bloomer, however, and more than one root should be planted if you wish a bloom or blooms the first season. This is believed to be an Arabian plant, but there is still some uncertainty as to its origin. 16-20 inches.
- ANNA FARR (Farr, 1913)** ..... 70c  
 S. delicately feathered with pale blue; F. pure white with a touch of blue at the base. A white effect from a distance. An uncertain grower and sparse bloomer in some localities, but a beautiful bloom—when it blooms. It has done so poorly with me that I would not list it, but some will want it and will demand it. It is said to have done well here and there, so here it is if you wish it. 36 inches.
- FAIRY (Kennicott, 1905)** ..... 25c  
 White, delicately bordered and suffused pale blue. A very pretty bloom. Stems 36 inches tall, sometimes gracefully bending which adds to the beauty of a clump of it. Too much can hardly be said in praise of this older variety.  
 "Its standards and falls resemble sunkissed snow outlined by the faint azure of the sky." one admirer of this variety writes.
- FENELLA (Morrison, 1921)** ..... 35c  
 A good, pure sturdy white of vigorous growth on 18-24 inch stems; "not tall, but so floriferous, the flowers so well carried and proportioned that I think it will prove the most effective white for garden massing," says Mr. Sturtevant, Secretary of the A. I. S. Arched standards and flaring falls.
- INNOCENZA (Lemon, about 1854)** ..... 25c  
 S. and F. ivory-white with a crest of rich gold. Not large, but a good grower and a delicate, charming Iris; really one of the indispensables. A late bloomer. 26 inches.
- KASHMIR WHITE (Foster, 1913)** ..... 80c  
 A most beautiful white hybrid that we owe to Sir Michael Foster. Flowers of unusual texture and perfect shape on 30-34 inch stems. Very probably this is the finest white at a moderate price. Some-

what slow to get established and needs good drainage with plenty of lime in the soil.

"Kashmir White, Fairy, Anna Farr, Princess Beatrice, and Aurea are my favorites.

"The grandest white for our locality (California); the past season it was the one variety enjoyed above all others.

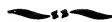
"Kashmir White is my tallest and best white, and is thrifty here (in Michigan).

#### LA NIEGE (Verdier, 1912).....40c

A warm near-white of French origin; very pretty, and of medium size and height; horizontal falls and of good substance. 16-18 inches.

#### MRS. H. DARWIN (Foster, 1893).....20c

S. white; F. white slightly marked with violet. A pretty little flower, and a very profuse bloomer. 16-20 inches.



### *White Standards and Darker Falls*

#### ANNE LESLIE (Sturtevant, 1918).....40c

S. white with the finest flush of rose; F. rich carmine. Said to be richer than the similar French variety, "Dalila." Rich color effect, and a good grower though a rather small bloom. 22-24 inches.

#### RHEIN NIXE (G. & K., 1910).....30c

S. pure white; F. raspberry purple, edged white. Vigorous grower and dependable bloomer. Tall and moderately large flower. One of the indispensable varieties that should be in every garden. 30-34 inches.



### *Frilled and Dotted Effects*

#### CAMELOT (Bliss, 1918).....40c

S. and F. creamy white edged with pale violet. About the tallest of the Plicatas and a free bloomer. 42-48 inches.

#### JEAN CHEVREAU (Cayeux, 1923).....\$2.50

S. cream, tinted buff-yellow; F. nearly white with small violet-brown stipplings. Medium size blooms of good texture. A very attractive variety and considered beautiful by many. This was priced at \$5.00 or more last year by most growers. 24-28 inches.

#### MADAME CHEREAU (Lemon, 1844).....20c

S. and F. white with distinct and rather heavy frilling of blue-lavender. The old standard frilled variety and of good blooming habit. A pretty flower and medium size bloom. Tall; 36 inches.

"Mad. Chereau at the Redlands, Calif., show of 1926, in a class for six stalks, one variety, came out second best in competition with Ballerine, L. A. Williamson, Tamerlane, Isoline.

- MADAME CHOBAUT (Denis, 1916)**.....25c  
 S. cream with shadings of buff and pink and lilac-tinted edges. F. white, edged russet. There is a clean contrast of colors in this Plicata that makes it a favorite. 30-32 inches.
- PARISIANA (Vilmorin, 1911)**.....35c  
 S. white, heavily dotted lilac-purple; F. white, frilled at edge with lilac. A flower of unusual coloring and worthy of a place in any collection. Odd and yet pleasing. 27-30 inches.
- VICTORINE (Lemon, 1840)**.....25c  
 S. white, mottled blue; F. violet blue, mottled white. Medium size flower and as dainty and pretty as an orchid. 27 inches.  
 "In form and coloring this appeals to my sense of beauty strongly," writes one authority.



## *P i n k   E f f e c t s*

- DREAM (Sturtevant, 1918)**.....\$1.00  
 Both S. and F. are delicate shades of lilac-pink. This is about the best light pink that has originated in America and it is also esteemed abroad. Large, of fine form and very pretty; it deserves a place in every Iris garden. 30-36 inches.
- EDOUARD MICHEL (Verdier, 1904)**.....60c  
 Self-colored large flower of a deep wine-red color, the deepest of all the pinks. A grand iris and of imposing effect. Tall stems and blooms finely held. 30-36 inches.  
 "Is admired above all others in my garden."  
 "Is a superb Iris and after certain preliminary difficulties are surmounted, it blends inexplicably well in many striking combinations."  
 "Mr. W's. Ed. Michel was simply gorgeous—it stood above everything in his garden."
- HER MAJESTY (Perry, 1903)**.....25c  
 S. pretty shade of rose-pink; F. darker with considerable veining. An attractive variety and one that I like. 20-24 inches.
- MRS. ALLAN GRAY (Foster, 1909)**.....25c  
 S. and F. a delicate, pale lavender or orchid-pink of a pleasing appearance. Dainty and pretty. 24 inches.
- PAULINE (Farr, 1913)**.....30c  
 S. and F. unusually large rich pansy-violet, or say, deep claret pink; rich orange beard. Approaches Edouard Michel in its coloring, but does not equal it. One of the largest of the Farr hybrids. 36 inches.
- WINDHAM (Farr, 1909)**.....30c  
 S. soft lavender-pink; F. veined with darker shades. Not large, in spite of what some catalogs are telling you, but a very pretty, delicate pink. 24-26 inches.

## Blue or Purple

- AMAS (wild; Asia Minor)**.....20c  
S. deep violet; F. sky-blue; one of the older varieties that is still liked. Large bloom, and one of the earliest of this size to bloom. 24-27 inches.
- ARCHEVEQUE (Vilmorin, 1911)**.....30c  
S. purple-violet; F. rich, deep, velvety-purple. A rich coloring and excelled by none in its class; a good bloomer and reliable grower. 24-28 inches.  
"Archeveque and Black Prince have the most velvety falls that I know anything about," says an Iris lover.
- BALLERINE (Vilmorin, 1920)**.....\$1.00  
S. light blue-violet, broad and rounded; F. a little deeper shade. Large flower on a tall stem, and among the very best of the French originations. It is universally regarded as one of the world's finest varieties. 36-40 inches.  
"Ballerine, in bloom June 11th was a wonderful breath-taking sight.  
"I consider Ballerine nearly perfect in form.  
"Some varieties like Ballerine, Crusader, Sindjkha, B. Y. Morrison, Steepway, etc., proved so pleasing that I had to add a second plant of each to my collection.
- BARONET (Sturtevant, 1920)**.....60c  
S. true chicory-blue, with falls somewhat deeper in tone. Tall and medium sized bloom. Color, tone and shading unusually good. Three rhizomes for \$1.50.  
"It is one of the most effective garden Irises that I have ever seen. Close at hand it is not specially remarkable, but at a distance of thirty to fifty feet it is scarcely surpassed for garden effects. Its growth is strong and vigorous; the flower stands out finely and the blending and shading of color at the proper distance is as fine as any Iris."—F. B. Mead.
- CRUSADER (Foster, 1913)**.....75c  
F. deep violet-blue with paler standards. The introducer claims this to be the finest of all blue irises. Splendid form; reported to be a slow grower by some, but it is not so with me. Mr. Wister (President of the A. I. S.) has said that the more he sees of this variety the better he likes it. 30-36 inches. Three rhizomes for \$2.00.  
"Crusader, a darker shade than Pallida Dalmatica, and beautifully shaped, is an adorable shade of blue."  
Note what another writer says of this Iris, under Ballerine, described above.
- KOCHII (wild; Italy)**.....25c  
S. and F. rich claret-purple. Early and handsome. Its fault is that its blooms are likely to come and go very quickly; it is a rich color and blooms profusely, but is not tall. 14-16 inches.
- LADY FOSTER (Foster, 1913)**.....75c  
S. pale blue; F. light bluish violet. Flowers large, smooth and stout textured. Splendid, bold bloom. Rather slow grower with me. One Iris lover has said that it is Foster's best seedling and others also have praised it highly. 36 inches.

- MADAME GAUDICHAU** (Millet, 1914) ..... \$1.50  
 A rich, black-violet or black-purple bloom of large size and good substance. A free-blooming, unusually tall and handsome variety. One of the best; rather early. 38-40 inches.  
 "Year after year it has been unequaled. It has vigor, beauty of form and a richness and depth of dark blue coloring which makes it a wondrously beautiful flower."  
 "More superb than ever. A vase of six splendid spikes stood out in relief from the entire bewildering medley.
- MONSIGNOR** (Vilmorin, 1907) ..... 35c  
 S. rich violet; F. velvety purple-crimson, heavily veined. Fine coloring and good shape, though not a large flower. A late bloomer and of unusual value on this account. 22-28 inches.
- MRS. FRYER** (Fryer, 1917) ..... 35c  
 S. white, shaded heliotrope; F. purple-crimson bordered, with a lighter shade, and veins of white. Said to be one of the best of the Fryer introductions. 32 inches.
- OTHELLO** (Lemon, about 1848) ..... 20c  
 S. rich blue; F. deep purple. One of the best of the older varieties. Rather small bloom, but a first-rate garden Iris. Included by one grower in his list of the best purples. 22-26 inches.
- PARC NUILLY** (Verdier, 1910) ..... 30c  
 Both standards and falls are a rich purple self, approaching plum in color. Medium to large blooms, and fine in masses; one of my indispensable varieties. 21-24 inches.
- PERFECTION** (Barr, about 1880) ..... 25c  
 S. light blue; F. dark violet-black. Handsome flower, but not quite as large as I would like to see it, considering its bold contrasts. Has more blossoms on the stalk than almost any other variety, and still compares favorably with many of the novelties. It always attracts attention. 28-32 inches.  
 "I could not detect the slightest difference between the Bliss Iris 'Azure' that I paid \$3.00 for, and the 25 cent Perfection," writes one gardener.
- SWATARA** (Farr, 1918) ..... 30c  
 S. lobelia-blue with a warm yellowish glow; F. bright violet and a conspicuous beard. Cannot be said to be a large flower, though some catalogs tell you it is, but it is very pretty bloom with a warm, rich effect. I regard it as one of the prettiest of the earlier Farr hybrids. 36 inches.
- TAMERLANE** (Vilmorin, 1904) ..... 30c  
 Deep violet-purple falls with paler standards. Easy, rapid grower and a large, good-looking bloom. One grower has said that this should have been called "Iris King." Very effective in masses. 28-34 inches.
- TROJANA** (wild; Asia Minor) ..... 20c and 30c  
 S. pale blue; F. deep violet-purple. Large flower. Not a very profuse bloomer, however, and even the largest single rhizome may fail to flower the first year; of value because of its late blooming characteristics, which together with its size, have led hybridizers to use it extensively in cross-breeding. Tall stalk; 32-36 inches.

*Lavender, Lilac and Violet*

- ALBERT VICTOR (Barr, 1885)**.....25c  
 S. soft blue; F. delicate, lovely lavender. Fine large blooms. Similar in coloring to P. Dalmatica, but taller and more erect. Good grower and bloomer. 36-42 inches.
- BASHI-BAZOUK (Sturtevant, 1919)**.....40c  
 S. light lavender-violet; F. deepening to mauve. A flower of large size with long drooping falls, with loosely held petals, and of an unusual effect. A very satisfactory bloomer and grower. 30-36 inches.
- CATERINA (Foster, 1909)**.....30c and 40c  
 Lavender-blue and lilac; almost the same coloring as P. Dalmatica except with a little pink showing. A beautiful flower and a graceful stem. Taller and larger than P. Dalmatica. Said to be a poor grower in very cold localities, but with me it is one of my best growers and with not a single fault to find in it. 40-45 inches.  
 "One of the most superb Irises that I have and this means something for I have over two hundred varieties.  
 "As Mr. W. grows it, it easily maintains a deserved position among the dozen best Irises I know of.  
 "Its fine color and smooth texture mark it as an aristocrat of the garden.
- DELICATISSIMA (Millet, 1914)**.....90c  
 Large flowers of fine form and good substance. A general soft lilac and rose effect with delicate pink tones. A charming Iris and a variety that every one likes. 3 feet. Three rhizomes for \$2.50.
- LEONIDAS (Europe, 1901)**.....20c  
 S. clear mauve; F. rosy mauve. Large and of good form; as compared with P. Dalmatica and Albert Victor, it is perhaps the most profuse bloomer of the three, and can always be depended upon. 30-32 inches.
- LEWIS TROWBRIDGE (Farr, 1913)**.....30c  
 S. bright violet; F. blue-violet shaded rose. Vigorous grower and fine bloom. One of the largest of the earlier Farr hybrids. Somewhat like P. Dalmatica in color, but with some rose in it. 30-36 inches.
- LOHENGRIN (G. & K., 1910)**.....35c  
 Rich silvery lilac shaded deeper on the falls, of the tone of a Cattleya orchid. Fine, widely expanded flower. Close to being an extra fine bloom, says one grower. Some seasons it shows more of the lilac and less of the pinkish tones. Some of its admirers call it among the most desirable of all the pallidas. 30 inches.
- LORD OF JUNE (Yeld, 1916)**.....75c  
 S. lavender-blue; F. rich violet-blue. An exceedingly handsome iris of fine proportions. Said by some to be one of the finest irises in the world. Finely suited as a cut flower for the house; out doors the petals are so large that they "flop" a little in warm sunshine or high winds. Its color, form and size are elegant, however. 30-36 inches.



- MAGNIFICA (Vilmorin, 1920)**.....\$1.25  
 S. light violet-blue; F. deep reddish-violet. Exceedingly large and long blooms on a tall stem; a strong plant with wide glaucous foliage. Its coloring is very pretty and many class it as one of the best. A new French introduction. 3-4 feet.  
 "Among the Vilmorin Irises, Magnifica, Ambassadeur, Alcazar, Isoline, . . . were so regally beautiful that they can not possibly pass unmentioned.
- MANDELAY (Sturtevant, 1918)**.....40c  
 A pale violet self-colored variety not unlike Caterina, but a better grower in some localities. Fresh water-lily fragrant blooms. Large flower and tall stalk. 36-38 inches.
- MADEMOISELLE SCHWARTZ (Denis, 1916)**.....\$1.25  
 A large flower on a tall stalk, of the palest mauve or a soft lavender-blue, paler than P. Dalmatica. A lovely Iris and said to be one of the finest of M. Denis' seedlings. 40-48 inches.
- MOTHER OF PEARL (Sturtevant, 1917; Kunderd 1921)**.....\$1.25  
 A beautiful pale bluish lavender color most aptly described by its name, and with the soft iridescent hues of mother of pearl. To me this is the most beautiful of all of Miss Sturtevant's productions and it is without a doubt one of the finest Irises in the world. A good grower, a large bloom and about 4 feet tall. This variety sold last year for amounts varying up to five dollars. Fine roots of Simpson Gardens quality.
- MYTH (Sturtevant, 1918)**.....60c  
 "A very large pallid lavender-violet flower, the segments unusually broad. S. open; F. widely flaring; most sumptuous in garden effect." Introducer's description. 24 inches. Three rhizomes for \$1.60.
- NUÉE D'ORAGE (STORM CLOUD) (Verdier, 1905)**.....25c  
 S. slaty gray or heliotrope; F. bronze and purple. A soft pastel effect. Very large blooms and vigorous growth. 24-30 inches.
- ORIFLAMME (Vilmorin, 1914)**.....40c  
 S. light-blue; F. rich violet-purple. Somewhat early and enormous, handsome blooms; one of the largest of irises. 22-26 inches.
- PRINCESS BEATRICE (Synonym Pallida Dalmatica; wild, from S. E. Europe)** Price according to size.....30c, 40c and 50c  
 S. light silvery lavender; F. clear and slightly deeper lavender. Large, fine blooms of perfect shape and admired by everyone. One of the older varieties not yet surpassed by any of the newer ones. I have the true variety which is not what all growers have. 30-32 inches.  
 "One of the oldest Irises in existence and still absolutely unequalled.  
 "The true Princess Beatrice is easily the most nearly perfect of any Iris that I know of.
- QUEEN ALEXANDRA (Barr, about 1910)**.....30c  
 S. fawn, shot with lilac; F. lilac reticulated bronze at base. Smooth, cool texture and a very attractive bloom. Sturdy growth and good-sized flower. 20-22 inches.

**QUEEN CATERINA (Sturtevant, 1917).....80c**

A general pale lavender-violet effect, with a yellow beard, and a peculiar sheen to it which adds to its beauty. Large flower and a finely shaped one. It is admired by a great many. 32-36 inches.

**SINDJKHA (Sturtevant, 1918).....70c**

Deep dull lavender, shading to dark buff and violet; subdued tints; form, size and habit exceptional. A rich bloom. See below what Mr. Bliss, the famous English hybridizer says of it. 36-42 inches. Three rhizomes for \$1.75.

"The large flowers of very fine form and exceptional substance appear to me to be akin to the type to which Dominion and L. A. Williamson belong, tho the coloring is not so strong and bright. It has also the same sturdy stems and vigorous growth as these, and is free-flowering."

Another authority says "An established clump of this variety is irresistible."



## *Blended and Bronze Shades*

**ALCAZAR (Vilmorin, 1910).....40c**

S. light bluish-violet; F. deep purple with bronze-veined throat. Somewhat sombre, but a rich, large, striking bloom. Thought by some to be one of the richest effects in my garden. Late. 30 inches.

"Unsurpassed as a garden clump.

"Among the more sombre blends it was as magnificent, or more so, than it had even been.

"With its tall and widely branching habit, makes probably the finest specimen clump of any Iris. (A. J. Bliss.)

"Easily the most popular variety among the darker blends.

**AFTERGLOW (Sturtevant, 1917).....50c**

Soft grayish lavender shading to a rich yellow through the center. Of loose pallida form and strong growth. Generally admired by all who see it. 32-36 inches.

"Several of the Sturtevant seedlings in this garden ranked among the aristocrats: Sherbert and the exquisitely-toned Afterglow."

**AMBASSADEUR (Vilmorin, 1920).....\$1.00**

Smoky bronze with dark velvety maroon falls. Considered the finest of Vilmorin's seedlings and an extremely rich bloom. Of large size and without a doubt one of our handsomest varieties. 32-36 inches.

"If it were necessary to name the best Iris in the world today, I would decide upon this variety.

"I would not change Ambassador in any respect.

"Most impressive and a splendid grower.

"In a class by itself and most imposing in substance, form and color.

**ASIA (Yeld, 1920).....\$3.00**

S. pale, silvery lavender with an undertone of yellow; F. a pale violet-purple, lighter towards the edges. A general soft lavender and pinkish-tan blend. Large blooms on strong, tall stalks and a good bloomer. Generally esteemed as being among our most glorious Irises. 36 inches.

- ARNOLS (Barr, 189?)**.....25c  
 S. bronze with rosy tints; F. rich soft velvet. Handsome medium-sized blooms. Among the bronze types this is one of the most attractive. Almost as fine as Prosper Laugier and a faster grower. When well-grown this is one of the older varieties that should be in every garden. 26-28 inches.  
 "An old variety and was very splendid this season—finer far than many a heralded new variety."
- ELDORADO (Vilmorin, 1910)**.....35c  
 S. fiery opalescent; F. old gold and burnt purple. A combination amazing and unusual in effect. Flower often comes small and with a weak stem, but during a recent season (one with more rain than usual) the stem was good and the flower large, and the more I saw of it the more I liked it. 25-28 inches.  
 "Eldorado was in beautiful form, and, massed with the exquisitely blending Quaker Lady, made a stunning corner in the garden. Both of these varieties are favorites with me.  
 "Eldorado was again the one to maintain the longest season, Monsignor being next."
- ISOLINE (Vilmorin, 1904)**.....35c  
 S. pinkish lilac; F. old rose with a tinge of copper. A beautiful piece of coloring and hard to describe. Large flowers, but a shy bloomer at times. Tall. 36 inches.  
 "An indescribably beautiful thing. The stalk is magnificent and the buds just before unfolding are awe-inspiring.  
 "It resembles nothing but itself. There mingle in its tall uprights and broad falls all the pale shades of auburn, sepia and rose."
- IRIS KING (G. & K., 1907)**.....30c  
 S. rich yellow shaded fawn; F. rich maroon with yellow beard. Fine coloring and a handsome iris, but not large, even though some growers describe it as such. This is another one of the indispensables that should be in every garden. About 26 inches.
- JACQUESIANA (Lemon, 1840)**.....30c  
 S. bright copper-crimson; F. rich maroon. Among the best of the older dark rich varieties and still holds its own with Iris lovers. 30-36 inches.  
 "Is of striking beauty and stands well at the front of the old varieties.  
 "We prefer it to P. Laugier, but most visitors prefer the latter."
- L. A. WILLIAMSON (Williamson, 1918)**.....75c  
 S. soft campanula-violet; F. velvety royal-purple; brilliant golden beard. Massive in flower and growth. Said by some to be one of the best American seedlings, though I find it to be a shy bloomer at times. 36-40 inches.  
 "This is the best Iris seedling that has yet been raised in America. The flowers are very large, of the finest form and of great substance, surpassed only by Dominion. The coloring is rich, velvety and bright though the crimson-purplish tone in the red-brown falls make it a little harsh. It is exceptionally free-flowering. Few, if any, Irises can claim such all-round excellence." A. J. Bliss.  
 "These three Irises (L. A. Williamson, Alcazar, and Ballerine) were the monarchs of my garden the past season."
- PROSPER LAUGIER (Verdier, 1914)**.....35c  
 S. smoky-brown; F. rich wine-red. Handsome and one of the best of the bronze varieties. Not a large flower, however. 30 inches.

- PROSPERO (Yeld, 1920)**.....90c  
 S. pale lavender; F. velvety red-purple. Large blooms of good substance and a reliable grower. The tall, heavy stalks will sometimes bend over in wet seasons. It ranks up among the best of the English introductions, but personally, and with me, it is still on trial. Note below what an authority says about it. 36-40 inches.  
 "These two (Asia and Prospero) possess so many good qualities of height, size, substance and color that they will always rank among the finest."
- QUAKER LADY (Farr, 1909)**.....35c  
 S. smoky lavender with yellow shadings; F. ageratum-blue and old gold. Odd and attractive. Not large but considered to be one of Farr's most attractive and popular seedlings. 30-33 inches.
- SHERBERT (Sturtevant, 1918)**.....40c  
 S. drab and cinnamon and purple; F. dahlia-purple shaded lighted at edges. An odd blending of colors. Flexuous and tortuous stems which are a pronounced defect in this variety. Good grower and large blooms. This variety was priced last year at one dollar by some growers. 32-36 inches.



### *Yellow or Dominately Yellow*

- AUREA (Jacques, 1834)**.....25c  
 S. and F. rich chrome-yellow. Perhaps the finest yellow at a low price. Good sized, but not large blooms of fine form. 24 inches.  
 "The best all-round yellow garden Iris; it seems to tone so well with many of the other varieties that it is very useful in quantities."
- DAWN—(Yeld, 1912)**.....30c  
 Very pretty sulphur-yellow bloom, amber-veined at the throat. One of the newer English introductions. Attractive bloom, though small. 28-30 inches.
- DARIUS (Parker, 1873)**.....20c  
 S. clear rich yellow; F. lilac-blue rimmed with white. Quite pretty and dainty, but not a large bloom. 18-22 inches.  
 "This old variety has not yet been equalled in its class by any of the newer introductions. . . . Its standards are a clear, beautiful yellow and the hazy lilac color of its falls seems to detach it from the earth and the rest of the plant, and give it that evanescent quality for which the Iris surpasses all other flowers."
- EMPIRE (Sturtevant, 1918)**.....50c  
 A warm deep yellow, taller than Aurea and deeper in color than Shekinah. A winner of several awards at Iris shows. A medium size bloom. 30 inches.
- FLAVESCENS (Europe, before 1830)**.....20c  
 Both standards and falls are soft yellow; wonderfully delicate, and of good size and growth. One of the older yellows that still retains its hold on the Iris public. 30-32 inches.  
 At the Washington show of 1926, the first prize in the artistic basket class was awarded a basket of Flavescens flanked around by the shorter stemmed Eldorado. The effect was very pretty.

- HELGE (G. & K., 1908)**.....20c  
Both S. and F. lemon-yellow. One of the early or "intermediate" types, and of good size and form. 12-15 inches.
- LORELEY (G. & K., about 1909)**.....25c  
S. light yellow; F. ultramarine bordered with cream. Good grower and striking contrasts. 30 inches.  
"It is quite one of the best of its color class, increases rapidly and is exceedingly free-blooming."
- MINNEHAHA (Farr, 1913)**.....35c  
S. creamy white, shaded yellow; F. same, but heavily marked with maroon. Blooms of good size. One of Farr's hybrids that is more esteemed in Europe than most of his other introductions. Rather massive and distinct. Listed in the past at one dollar by many of the growers. 24 inches.
- MRS. NEUBRONNER (Ware, about 1898)**.....20c  
S. and F. very deep, rich yellow. Its color is good, but its height and size and shape are against it. I am listing it for there is no other yellow so deep and intense. 14-16 inches.
- OCHRACEA CAERULIA (Denis, 1919)**.....\$1.25  
Synonym "Sunset." S. light buff, strongly bordered yellow. F. coppery-yellow suffused with violet and lavender. Late in blooming; not very tall but a remarkable free-bloomer. Many admirers think it a beautiful Iris and absolutely different in its coloring from any they have seen. 26-28 inches.
- PRINCESS VICTORIA LOUISE (G. & K., 1910)**.....25c  
S. soft clear yellow; F. rich plum, bordered cream. Gay and gaudy and good for lighting up dark spots in the garden. Of good size and growth and very floriferous. 24-30 inches.
- SHEKINAH (Sturtevant, 1918)**.....90c  
A pale lemon-yellow pallida, not large in size, but on a moderately tall stalk, and generally admired. One of the newest and best of the tall yellows, and I like it very much. 30-34 inches.
- SHERWIN WRIGHT (Kohankie, 1915)**.....25c  
S. and F. both a rich golden yellow, though rather small bloom. A good grower and bloomer. 2 feet.



## THE SIMPSON SEEDLINGS

### ARLINGTON (1924) .....\$2.50

S. Clear rosy lavender; F. bright velvety reddish violet, almost crimson in effect. It is a very large bloom and a thrifty grower. This seedling has been highly commented on and many have said that it is one of the prettiest flowers they have ever seen. 32-36 inches.

"Arlington is in all its glory; one of the rhizomes you sent has a wonderful bloom. I think it is as fine an Iris as I have ever had.—Tennessee.

"Arlington proved as fine in my garden as it had in Mr. Simpson's.—Massachusetts.

"Your Arlington is better than L. A. W. in that it is taller, of better color and without the somberness of that variety. It is a thoroughly good Iris.—Alabama.

"An established clump of Arlington made a fine effect as the flowers were large, the stems of good height, and the flowers a rich bi-color composition that is quite telling. I have been somewhat put to it to think up a proper companion to plant alongside this, in an effort to bring out and to emphasize the fine red-purple of its falls.—California.

"The general view of it is that it is an exceptionally fine, upstanding plant and a remarkably rich flower, holding its own amidst some of the richest of the new introductions.—Massachusetts.

### MELROSE (1926) .....\$1.25

Formerly known as seedling 4a. A large bi-color, both S. and F. being shades of lavender and purple; a thrifty grower and a profuse bloomer, blooming one season when dozens of other varieties failed to show either a single stalk or else entirely too few. It is true that it is of a type and in a class where there are already too many varieties, but this has stood all tests so well, and has been rated so highly by experts that this is my excuse for introducing it. In the soft light of a late afternoon it becomes one of the prettiest blue-purples that I have seen. Rated at 90 by two of the most competent experts in the country, which places it up among the best. I am introducing it at a figure that any one can afford and I believe you will like it. Height 26 inches.

"Although but a single division planted late last August, it bloomed this season. The one flower stalk had five immense blooms—two of which withstood two days of intense heat (well over 90°) with a scorching wind blowing continuously. We liked the bloom, the color, the texture

and shape, and its endurance under trying conditions. The color shows to especial advantage in the late afternoon. It certainly attracted attention in my garden where I grow some two hundred varieties.—B. B. H., Elgin, Ill.

"My little display consisted of Arlington, No. 4a, Princess Beatrice, Queen Caterina, Lord of June, Ambassadeur, and Iris King, with yellow Spanish Iris, yellow lemon lilies and Therese peonies. It was a dream and I had many compliments. Mr. C. says that 4a easily rates 90; it is a good Iris and I like it.—K. P. W., Nashville, Tenn.

**CALEBEE (1923)** .....75c

An Indian name, pronounced "Ca-le-by." An unusually rich plicata; S. lavender and white, with reddish-brown markings, particularly on the falls, giving the entire flower an attractive bronzy effect. Medium size bloom and somewhat narrow petals. Not large and not tall, but simply odd, attractive and very pretty. Good grower. 22-24 inches.

**GAMALIA (1927)** .....\$5.00

From the Arabian word "Gamal," meaning "beautiful." S. dark ageratum violet; F. rich, dark reddish purple, flushed amber at base; style branches of the clearest amber that an Iris ever possesses, brightening the entire center of the bloom. The standards are cupped and flaring, somewhat like the highly rated English variety Sir Michael and the new American seedlings Magnificent and Conquistador. It is richly dark, but the amber at its throat with the red in the purple of its falls prevent any of the somberness which is found in Alcazar and similar varieties. Honorable Mention at Washington in 1924 by the A. I. S.; it was the largest bloom in that show. The bloom is enormous and is about as large as an Iris should be; it can probably be classed with the five or six largest varieties in the world, yet in spite of the great size the blooms are held stoutly erect by the stiff 30 to 34 inch stems; these latter are well-branched; growth is good. Roots are of generous size, but naturally the first season after transplanting they may not give normal height nor size of bloom.



## IRIS COLLECTIONS

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### No. 1—

For those beginning the fascinating culture of Irises a collection of the following twelve named varieties will be sent for \$2.50 (the catalog values amount to \$3.15):—**Fenella, Parisiana, Amas, Perfection, Madame Chereau, Tamerlane, Mrs. Darwin, Leonidas, Queen Alexandra, Arnols, Jacquesiana, Flavescens.**

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### No. 2—

Another collection, only slightly higher in price, of the following, will be sent for \$3.25 (the catalog values amount to \$4.20):—**Ma Mie, Windham, Quaker Lady, Fenella, Anne Leslie, Rhein Nixe, Her Majesty, Albert Victor, Mandalay, Alcazar, Lohengrin, Empire.**

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### No. 3—

This includes some of the very best of the low priced ones. Price \$3.50 catalog values, \$4.45):—**Afterglow, Caterina, Iris King, Princess Beatrice, Lewis Trowbridge, Eldorado, Baronet, Swatara, Mrs. Fryer, Pauline, Anne Leslie, Archeveque.**

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### No. 4—

Made up of some of the finest in the catalog. Price \$8.00 (catalog value \$10.10):—**Kashmir White, Madame Chobaut, Dream, Edouard Michel, Ballerine, Crusader, Sindjkha, Delicatissima, Queen Caterina, Ambassadeur, Shekinah, Prospero.**

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“My present Iris garden,” says a writer in the ‘Flower Grower,’ “began with three inexpensive collections of well-known varieties. Today, they are the backbone of my garden. They always grow and bloom, they make a splendid showing, and when visitors come in for a closer look, these are the plants that have called them in. They have made me a firm believer in beginning an Iris garden with a ‘collection,’ or better yet, with several, even though there may be some duplicates.”



## WHAT THEY THINK OF THE QUALITY OF THE SIMPSON GARDEN STOCK

The extracts given here are from actual letters on file that have been received from appreciative customers:

¶ I wish to say that I was delighted with the roots you sent me; they were large and in the finest condition. I am telling my friends that they can do no better anywhere.—C. T. H., Virginia.

¶ I received this evening the package of very fine Iris you sent me and am more than pleased with them.—J. H. K., Dist. of Col.

¶ The Iris roots came today and are very fine.—F. E. D., Massachusetts.

¶ The Iris came promptly and I want to thank you for the wonderful roots. I have raised a good many in the past ten years but I don't believe that I have ever seen such roots or such sturdy rhizomes.—E. H. B., Maryland.

¶ I must write and tell you how well the plants you sent me last June have done—especially the ones considered by so many the hardest to grow: Kashmir White, Ed. Michell and Caterina—have all grown wonderfully well. Without exception they have surely shown how splendid must be the quality of the stock sent out.—T. P. H., Pennsylvania.

¶ The Irises were duly received and were all I could possibly expect, and more. I could have divided them all into several units, but I only did it with three of them.—J. E. C., Virginia.

¶ I don't think I have ever lost an Iris that came from you; they have always been good, strong roots.—E. C. S., Tennessee.

¶ I have bought Iris before of a number of dealers and I am free to say that your's surpassed by a very great deal anything I have had.—L. H. F., Dist. of Col.

¶ It is a joy to plant your roots and to tell others of their quality and value.—R. D., Mississippi.

¶ The splendid roots received from you were the very finest I have ever had from a grower. Your generosity is truly appreciated and I shall be waiting with almost feverish impatience the coming of spring and "Iris time."—C. W. M., Virginia.

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¶ I cannot refrain from telling you how very much I enjoyed your catalog. It is unique in its frankness and truthfulness.—S. W. W., Georgia.

## PLEASE READ BEFORE ORDERING

Cash with order by either check or money order, unless otherwise specified below.

Orders of less than one dollar are respectfully declined.

Five per cent discount on all orders of \$10.00 and up to \$19.99; ten per cent discount on orders of \$20.00 or over. This discount does not include the collections described on page 20

For prices in quantities of three, six and twelve rhizomes of one variety, see page 5

Should the order be large or fairly large, say for \$20.00 or more, it may not be convenient to remit the full amount at once; in this case remit 50 per cent with your order, and the balance can be paid within one, two or three months. When the order is mailed please state explicitly just when the balance will be sent.

**Shipping Time:** My preference, and that of the great majority, is after the plants have bloomed, which with me is after June 10th. From this date until September 1st, is undoubtedly the best transplanting time; and to prove this, I do all my own transplanting then! However, I can accommodate those who wish the plants delivered in the spring if they will so direct me and they can be shipped, if you wish it done, about March 15th to May 1st. They will not be shipped during the blooming period, which as a rule is from May 1st to June 10th or 15th.

**Size of Rhizomes:** They are mostly of the so-called "blooming size" (the rarer varieties will run somewhat smaller, however), though it has been found that about one-fourth of these will not bloom the first season after transplanting, due to some cause which no one can control. Different varieties give us different-sized rhizomes; for instance, Windham, Iris King, Aurea, Othello, etc., naturally produce small ones, while Caterina, Lewis Trowbridge, Arlington, Pauline, and others, produce the larger ones. However, when they are small, and if only one be ordered you will probably find two or a small clump in the package, instead of one! You will also find that "winged" or branching rhizomes are sent in many cases, so that you may possibly get two stalks from each rhizome the first season after transplanting, and this size is such that but few growers can afford to send out! My rule is to give as much as possible for the prices asked.

Satisfaction is absolutely guaranteed to all reasonable purchasers. On receipt of an order, if unsatisfactory to you, return the rhizomes promptly in good condition and the purchase price will be as promptly remitted. I am not in the Iris business simply to make money out of it, and any other policy than this would utterly fail to be satisfactory to me. Be reasonable, though, please, and if you have never bought Iris before, do not expect the earth for the prices asked. I do not send out "nubbins," as some growers do, but still keep in mind what was said above, that some varieties naturally grow small rhizomes, while others grow large ones.

Planting instructions are sent with each order, if desired.

## A MEMORANDUM PAGE

Varieties that I must have :

Of all the most beautiful flowers in the world, the bearded Irises are the most easily grown ones, and they are the least exacting as to soil and attention; with what wonderful blooms though, do they repay you for your care!

## A MEMORANDUM PAGE

The Simpson-Garden size roots will not disappoint you—some others might, and some others undoubtedly would!

Dont plant deep—barely cover the rhizomes, but push the fibrous or feeding roots into the ground as far as you can.

"MY garden paths that turn and wind  
And lead me far from daily grind  
Of tasks not wholly to my mind,  
Are paths of peace.  
When cares upon me weigh and press  
I flee from worry, care and stress,  
And gain a season's sweet redress  
Along these paths.  
They lead me out to life and light,  
Afar from fear's most deadening blight;  
They lead me up the spirits' height;  
My garden paths."

—Edith Porter Kimball

# **The Simpson Iris Gardens**

H. P. SIMPSON, *Grower*

R F D. No. 1

Rosslyn • Va